

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/781,480
Reply to Office Action dated November 16, 2007

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PATENT
450100-04935

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IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A robot apparatus comprising:

sensor means for detecting an external or internal situation;

determination means for determining as a function of said external or internal situation and a corresponding serious level of the external or internal situation whether to ask for help,

wherein the serious level indicates how serious the external or internal situation is for the robot itself; and

asking action selection means for selecting an action asking for help based on said external or internal situation and said serious level and making said robot apparatus take the action when said determination means decides to ask for help[[]],

wherein the name of a user who interacts with the robot is retrieved based on a face identification and speaker identification of the user and is stored to a combination ID representing at least the serious level and the external or internal situation.

2. (Original) The robot apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said asking action selection means selects another action asking for help and makes said robot apparatus take the action when said external or internal situation is not improved after asking for help.

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3 of 8

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U.S. Patent Application No. 10/781,480
Reply to Office Action dated November 16, 2007

PATENT
450100-04935

3. (Original) The robot apparatus according to claim 1, wherein,
in a case where said external or internal situation is a critical situation with
a high serious level, said asking action selection means changes a robot mode so as to delay
progress of the critical situation when the external or internal situation is not improved after
asking for help.

4. (Original) The robot apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising
storage means for storing a log of past actions asking for help and their results, wherein
said asking action selection means selects said action asking for help
based on said external or internal situation and said serious level by reference to the log being
stored in said storage means and makes said robot apparatus take the action when said
determination means decides to ask for help.

5. (Currently Amended) A control method of a robot apparatus comprising:
a first step of detecting an external or internal situation and determining as
a function of the external or internal situation and a corresponding serious level of the external
or internal situation whether to ask for help,

wherein the serious level indicates how serious the external or internal
situation is for the robot itself; and

a second step of selecting an action asking for help based on said external
or internal situation and said serious level and making said robot apparatus take the action when
said determination means decides to ask for help[[.]],

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wherein the name of a user who interacts with the robot is retrieved based on a face identification and speaker identification of the user and is stored to a combination ID representing at least the serious level and the external or internal situation.

6. (Original) The control method according to claim 5, further comprising a third step of selecting another action asking for help and making said robot apparatus take the action when the external or internal situation is not improved after asking for help.

7. (Original) The control method according to claims 5, wherein, in a case where said external or internal situation is a critical situation with a high serious level, said second step changes a robot mode so as to delay progress of the critical situation when the external or internal situation is not improved after asking for help.

8. (Original) The control method according to claim 5, further comprising a fourth step of storing a log of past actions asking for help and their results, wherein said second step selects an action asking for help based on said external or internal situation and said serious level by reference to said log and makes said robot apparatus take the action.